

**REMARKS**

Claims 34, 37 through 44, and 57 through 64 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending upon entry of the instant response. Claims 34 and 57 are independent.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 57 through 64.

Claims 34 and 37 through 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on October 14, 2008, between Applicant and the Examiner. In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for agreeing that the limitation in claim 34 stating, "wherein said proximal end of said stem has opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when viewed in front view", is enabled by the specification, and the application is in condition for allowance.

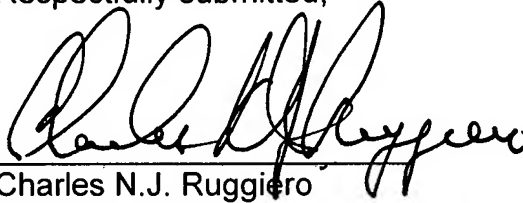
During the telephone interview, the prosecution history for the present application was outlined and discussed. The present application was originally filed on September 9, 2003 and prosecution has been pending for the past five years. There have been over ten official communications between the Examiner and Applicant, including numerous actions relating specifically to the limitation of claim 34 discussed above, a pre-appeal brief and a double patenting rejection.

The limitation discussed above was present in claim 34, and is disclosed word for word in the specification as of the original filing date. It was not until the Office Action mailed on July 1, 2008, nearly five years later, that the enablement rejection was raised under §112, first paragraph. In view of the prosecution history and full disclosure of the limitation in the specification, it is believed by Applicant, and agreed to by the Examiner,

that the §112, first paragraph rejection was improper and claim 34, as well as claims 37 through 44 that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 34 and 37 through 44.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

October 22, 2008

Charles N.J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for Applicant

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, LLP

One Landmark Square, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

Tel: (203) 327-4500

Fax: (203) 327-6401